

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are presently pending in the application. Claims 21, 23 and 25 have been amended in this response. More specifically, claim 25 has been rewritten in independent form without narrowing or otherwise changing the scope of this claim.

In the Office Action mailed November 18, 2004, claims 21, 22, 24 and 26 were rejected. More specifically, the status of the pending claims in light of this Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 21, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent No. 4016850 to Pirker et al. ("Pirker");

(B) Claims 21, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent No. 3717030 to Purschke ("Purschke");

(C) Claims 21, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DG Flugzeugbau GmbH—A Bug Cleaner With Garage ("Bug Cleaner");

(D) Claims 21, 22, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,405,975 to Sankrithi et al. ("Sankrithi");

(E) Claims 21, 22, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,986,493 to Sarh ("Sarh");

(F) Claims 1-7, 10-12, 15-20 and 27-38 were allowed; and

(G) Claims 23 and 25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the features of the claim from which they depend.

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone conference on February 1, 2005, and requests that this paper constitute the applicants' Interview Summary. During that telephone conference, the present Office Action, the cited references, and a proposed amendment to claim 21 were discussed.

The Examiner agreed that the proposed amendment patentably distinguishes claims 21 over the cited references. Claim 21 has been amended accordingly.

Response to the Section 102(b) Rejections

Claims 21, 22, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pirker, Purschke, Bug Cleaner, Sankrithi, and/or Sarh. In light of the agreement reached during the February 1 telephone conference, the Section 102(b) rejections of claim 21 will be withdrawn.

Claims 22, 24 and 26 depend from claim 21. Accordingly, the Section 102(b) rejections of these claims should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 21 and for the additional features of these claims.

Allowed Claims 1-7, 10-12, 15-20 and 27-38

Although the undersigned attorney agrees with the Examiner's conclusion that these claims are allowable, the undersigned attorney notes that the claims may be allowable for reasons other than those identified by the Examiner and does not concede that the Examiner's characterizations of the terms of the claims and the prior art are correct.

Claims 8, 9, 13 and 14 were previously withdrawn in response to a Restriction Requirement. Because these claims depend from allowable claim 1, applicants request reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

Response to the Claim Objections

Claims 23 and 25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the features of the claim from which they depend. Claim 23 has not been rewritten in independent form because the rejection of independent claim 21 will be withdrawn. Claim 25 has been rewritten in independent form without narrowing or otherwise changing the scope of this claim. Accordingly, the objection to claims 23 and 25 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the cited art. The applicants accordingly request reconsideration of the application and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call David T. Dutcher at (206) 359-8000.

Date: Feb. 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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